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EXAMINER

HUTTON JR, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/820,298

Applicant(s)

KURISHIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Doug Hutton

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11-13,15,16,18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11-13,15,16,18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Applicant's Response

In Applicant's Response dated 14 February 2005, Applicant amended the Specification, submitted a proposed amendment to the Drawings, amended Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19, cancelled Claims 2, 10, 14, 17 and 20-25, and argued against all objections and rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 5 October 2004.

The certified copy of the Japanese application on which Applicant based the foreign priority claim has been located and is now part of the record. Thus, the examiner withdraws the request that Applicant submit a certified copy of this application.

The minor typographic objections to the Specification are withdrawn.

The objection to the Drawings regarding reference sign 46 is withdrawn.

The objections to the claims that were previously set forth are withdrawn, with the exception of the objection to Claim 8 restated in the following text.

Priority

Receipt of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) is acknowledged. The papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

The specification remains objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1). Correction of the following is required: the “expression information” of Claim 7 (see Line 3).

The meaning of every term used in any of the claims should be apparent from the descriptive portion of the specification with clear disclosure as to its import. See MPEP § 608.01(o). The specification fails to mention “***expression*** information” in the textual description of Applicant’s invention. Thus, the specification provides no proper description of the meaning of this element. Applicant’s proposed amendment to Figure 9C does not provide proper antecedent basis to clearly explain the meaning of the element because it provides no guidance in determining the meaning of the element.

For purposes of examination, the examiner will assume that this limitation is meant to indicate a particular type of annotation.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because:

- the reference number “33” in Figure 7, used to identify the frame containing the character string “automobile phone,” should be amended to — 34 — because that is the proper reference number (see Specification – Page 17, Line 7); and

- the reference number "34" in Figure 7, used to identify the frame containing the character string "automobile phone," should be amended to — 33 — because that is the proper reference number (see Specification – Page 17, Line 21).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 remains objected to because of the following informalities:

- the term "said" in Line 5 should be amended to — a — because a "specialized tag" is not previously mentioned in the claims; and
- the term "comment" in Line 6 should be amended to — comment text — because that is how the element is previously identified (see Claim 7, Line 4).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DeMello et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,714,214.

Claim 1:

DeMello discloses a client apparatus for displaying a page made in a markup language by a browser (see Figures 2 and 3A; see Column 3, Lines 3-9 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system displays documents, said documents including web pages), comprising:

- a comment information appending unit appending desired comment information to any arbitrary place of graphical information in said page (see Figures 3A and 6B; see Column 2, Line 53 through Column 3, Line 49; see Column 6, Lines 26-45 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system allows the user to add annotations to any selected objects within documents and display the annotations in conjunction with the selected document objects. The document objects comprise “graphical information” located at “arbitrary places” in the documents, and the annotations are located at specified objects within the documents. The “specified objects” include “graphical information” located at “arbitrary places” in the documents in that the documents comprise “web pages,” “manuals,” “reference materials” and “picture books,” all of which include graphics.);
- a comment information separating unit separating said comment information appended by the comment information appending unit from said page (see Figure 6B; see Column 9, Line 27 through Column 10, Line 9 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system stores the annotations separately from the documents, as clearly indicated in the cited figure and text);
- a comment information storing unit storing said comment information separated by the comment information separating unit (see Figure 6B; see Column 9, Line 27 through Column 10, Line 9 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the

document interface system stores the annotations in annotation files that are separate from the document files); and

- a comment information merging unit merging said comment information stored by the comment information storing unit (see Figure 2; see Column 5, Line 61 through Column 6, Line 25 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system merges the annotations with the documents, as clearly indicated in the cited figure and text).

Claim 4:

DeMello discloses the client apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said comment information consists of at least one of either character string information, graphical information, signature/certification information or hypertext link information, and it can be distributed, jointly owned or transferred via a network or a recording medium (see Figure 3A; see Column 7, Lines 40-49 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system allows the user to add annotations that may include a bookmark, a highlight, a note or a drawing; thus the annotations consists of “character string information, graphical information and hypertext link information;” also, the bookmark, the highlight, the note and the drawing information “can be distributed, jointly owned or transferred via a network or a recording medium”).

Claim 5:

DeMello discloses the client apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said comment information includes in the hypertext link information a shortcut function to a network or a bookmark function to a web page (see Figure 3A; see Column 7, Lines 40-49 – DeMello discloses this limitation, as clearly indicated in the cited figure and text).

Claim 7:

DeMello discloses the client apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the comment information separating unit retains, as said comment information, at least place information of the comment information, comment text, expression information of said place and address information of the page including said place (see Figures 2, 3A, 6A and 6B; see Column 9, Line 44 through Column 10, Line 9 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system separates the annotation from the document and stores it; the file structure of the annotation includes the file position of the object with which the annotation is associated, the text of the annotation, an indication of the type of annotation, and a file portion that indicates to which document it is linked).

Claim 9:

DeMello discloses a recording medium recording a program for a client apparatus that displays a page made by a markup language using a browser (see Figures 2 and 3A; see Column 3, Lines 3-9; see Column 4, Lines 5-25 – DeMello

discloses this limitation in that the computer-implemented document interface system displays documents, said documents including web pages), executing the following processes:

- appending desired comment information to a desired place of graphical information on the page of the markup language that is being viewed with a browser (see Figures 3A and 6B; see Column 2, Line 53 through Column 3, Line 49; see Column 6, Lines 26-45 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system allows the user to add annotations to any selected objects within documents and display the annotations in conjunction with the selected document objects. The document objects comprise “graphical information” located at “desired places” in the documents, and the annotations are located at specified objects within the documents. The “specified objects” include “graphical information” located at “desired places” in the documents in that the documents comprise “web pages,” “manuals,” “reference materials” and “picture books,” all of which include graphics.);
- separating said comment information from the markup language said page (see Figure 6B; see Column 9, Line 27 through Column 10, Line 9 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system stores the annotations separately from the documents, as clearly indicated in the cited figure and text);
- storing said separated comment information (see Figure 6B; see Column 9, Line 27 through Column 10, Line 9 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the

document interface system stores the annotations in annotation files that are separate from the document files); and

- merging the stored comment information with desired page of said markup language (see Figure 2; see Column 5, Line 61 through Column 6, Line 25 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system merges the annotations with the documents, as clearly indicated in the cited figure and text).

Claims 11 and 12:

Claims 11 and 12 correspond to Claims 4 and 5, respectively. Thus, DeMello discloses every limitation of these claims, as indicated in the above rejections for Claims 4 and 5.

Claims 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eintracht et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,687,878.

Claim 13:

Eintracht discloses a client apparatus that displays a page made in a markup language (see Figure 3; see Column 1, Lines 8-13 – Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system includes clients that display web documents.), comprising:

- a storing unit storing comment information associated with a related page (see Figure 3; see Column 2, Lines 8-11; see Column 6, Lines 48-54; see Column 10, Lines 40-63 – Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system includes a Notes Database that stores annotations for documents. They system includes “annotations associated with a document,” as expressly disclosed in Column 2, Lines 9-10.), said comment information including address information of the related page, specified place information in said page, and a comment text (see Figure 1B; see Column 8, Lines 6-9; see Column 10, Lines 40-63 – Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system includes a Notes Database having records of the annotations. Each annotation record comprises a Note Document ID, Note Anchor coordinates and Note Contents. In other words, each annotation record includes the identification of the document to which the annotation relates, the coordinates of the location of the annotation on the related document and the contents of the annotation.);
- a judging unit judging whether there is any comment information related to a page (see Figure 1B; see Column 13, Line 36 through Column 14, Line 22 – Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system, after receiving a request from a client to retrieve the annotations associated with a document, determines whether there are any annotations for the requested document and, if there are, sets and displays the annotations with the document.); and

- a display controlling unit setting said page and said comment information in association with the specified place information in said page that can be displayed by said client apparatus when there is said comment information related to said page (see Figures 1B, 1C and 2; see Column 13, Line 41 through Column 14, Line 22 – As indicated in the above discussion, Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system sets and displays the annotations with the document at the client, if there are annotations associated with the document.).

Claim 15:

Eintracht discloses the client apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the display controlling unit displays comment text corresponding said specified place information according an instruction that specified place information a displayed page should be detected (as indicated in the above rejections of Claims 13 and 14, the collaborative work system, upon request by the user at the client computer, retrieves all annotations associated with a document and displays the annotated document, said annotations being placed in the proper locations of said document; thus, the collaborative work system “displays comment text corresponding said specified place information according an instruction that specified place information a displayed page should be detected”).

Claim 16:

Eintracht discloses a recording medium recording a program for a client apparatus that displays a page made in a markup language (see Figure 3; see Column 1, Lines 8-13 – Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the computer-implemented collaborative work system includes clients that display web documents.), executing the following processes:

- judging whether there is any comment information related to said page (see Figure 1B; see Column 13, Line 36 through Column 14, Line 22 – Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system, after receiving a request from a client to retrieve the annotations associated with a document, determines whether there are any annotations for the requested document and, if there are, sets and displays the annotations with the document.); and
- storing said page and said comment information for display by said client apparatus in association with specified place information in said page when there is any comment information related to said page (As indicated in the above rejection for Claim 13, Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system: 1) stores a Note Document ID, Note Anchor coordinates and Note Contents for each annotation record; and 2) displays the annotations with the document at the client, if there are annotations associated with the document.), said comment information including address information of a related page, the specified place information in said page, and comment text (As indicated in the

above discussion and the above rejection for Claim 13, Eintracht discloses this limitation.).

Claim 18:

Claim 18 corresponds to Claim 15. Thus, Eintracht discloses every limitation of Claim 18, as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 15.

Claim 19:

Eintracht discloses a display method for displaying a comment as well as a page made in a markup language (see Figure 1B; see Column 1, Lines 8-13 – Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system includes clients that display annotated web documents.), comprising:

- judging whether there is any comment information related to the displayed page (see Figure 1B; see Column 13, Line 36 through Column 14, Line 22 – Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system, after receiving a request from a client to retrieve the annotations associated with a document, determines whether there are any annotations for the requested document and, if there are, sets and displays the annotations with the document.);
- setting said page and said comment information that can be displayed by the client apparatus when there is any comment information related to the page (see Figures 1B, 1C and 2; see Column 13, Line 41 through Column 14, Line 22 – As indicated in the above rejection for Claim 13, Eintracht discloses this limitation in

that the collaborative work system sets and displays the annotations with the document at the client, if there are annotations associated with the document.); and

- displaying the comment information corresponding to the instructed place according to an instruction that said displayed page should be detected (see Figures 1B, 1C and 2; see Column 13, Line 41 through Column 14, Line 22 – As indicated in the above rejection for Claim 13, Eintracht discloses this limitation in that the collaborative work system sets and displays the annotations with the document at the client, if there are annotations associated with the document.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeMello, in view of Van Hoff, U.S. Patent No. 5,822,539.

Claim 3:

As indicated in the above discussion, DeMello discloses every limitation of Claim

1. Also, DeMello discloses:

- appending said desired comment information to said place by adding the desired comment information to specified graphical information at the arbitrary place for the markup language that is being displayed in the client apparatus at present (see Figures 2 and 3A; see Column 5, Line 61 through Column 6, Line 37 – DeMello discloses this limitation in that the document interface system displays an icon, as shown in Figure 2, that indicates that an annotation is present in the object adjacent to the icon. As indicated in the above rejection for Claim 1, DeMello also discloses that the user may insert an annotation for any selected object within the document and that the “selected document object” comprises “graphical information” in that the documents comprise “web pages,” “manuals,” “reference materials” and “picture books,” all of which include graphics.).

DeMello fails to expressly disclose:

- appending desired comment information to said place by merging a specified tag and displaying on a browser.

Van Hoff teaches a client apparatus for displaying a page made in a markup language by a browser (see Figure 1; see Column 3, Line 66 through Column 4, Line 21 – Van Hoff teaches this limitation in that the computer system includes a client that displays web pages), comprising:

- appending desired comment information to said place by merging a specified tag and displaying on a browser (see Figures 3 and 4; see Column 7, Lines 24-65 –

Van Hoff teaches this limitation in that the computer system annotates the web page by inserting a link in the web page and displaying it on a browser; thus, the computer system “merges a specified tag and displays it on a browser”), for the purpose of providing additional information regarding the requested web page (see Column 3, Lines 11-21).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus, disclosed in DeMello, to include:

- appending desired comment information to said place by merging a specified tag and displaying on a browser,
- for the purpose of providing additional information regarding the requested web page, as taught by Van Hoff.

Claim 6:

DeMello fails to expressly disclose:

- a specified tag including, as tag information, not only link information to call said comment information when said place is clicked on, but also at least one of anchor mark information appended to said place, or information about pointer-shape variation occurring according to the pointer movement to said place.

Van Hoff teaches a client apparatus for displaying a page made in a markup language by a browser (see Figure 1; see Column 3, Line 66 through Column 4, Line 21 – Van Hoff teaches this limitation in that the computer system includes a client that displays web pages), comprising:

- a specified tag including, as tag information, not only link information to call said comment information when said place is clicked on (see Figures 3 and 4; see Column 7, Lines 24-65 – Van Hoff teaches this limitation in that the computer system annotates the web page by inserting a link in the web page; when a user clicks on the link, the computer system will load the hyperlinked web page and display it on the browser), but also at least one of anchor mark information appended to said place (see Figures 3 and 4; see Column 7, Lines 24-65 – Van Hoff teaches this limitation in that the computer system annotates the web page by inserting a link in the web page, said link including “anchor mark information”), for the purpose of providing additional information regarding the requested web page (see Column 3, Lines 11-21).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method, disclosed in DeMello, to include:

- a specified tag including, as tag information, not only link information to call said comment information when said place is clicked on, but also at least one of anchor mark information appended to said place, or information about pointer-shape variation occurring according to the pointer movement to said place,

for the purpose of providing additional information regarding the requested web page, as taught by Van Hoff.

Claim 8:

As indicated in the above discussion, DeMello discloses every limitation of Claim

7. Also, DeMello discloses:

- the comment information merging unit obtaining the page including said place based on the comment information read from the comment information unit, said place of this obtained page is merged with an annotation and displayed on the browser, and at least said comment is merged with said page and displayed on the browser when said place of this displayed page is clicked on (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 1, the document interface system merges annotations with documents; as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 7, the document interface system merges each annotation into a particular place in said document; as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 1, the document interface system displays the merged annotations in conjunction with the documents; see Column 6, Lines 10-20 – DeMello discloses that the document interface system displays the annotation when a user clicks on the icon).

DeMello fails to expressly disclose:

- merging said place of the obtained page with a specialized tag.

Van Hoff teaches a client apparatus for displaying a page made in a markup language by a browser (see Figure 1; see Column 3, Line 66 through Column 4, Line 21 – Van Hoff teaches this limitation in that the computer system includes a client that displays web pages), comprising:

- merging a place of the obtained page with a specialized tag (see Figures 3 and 4; see Column 6, Line 64 through Column 7, Line 65 – Van Hoff teaches this limitation in that the computer system obtains the requested web page and annotates the web page by inserting a link in the web page at a matched pattern),

for the purpose of providing additional information regarding the requested web page (see Column 3, Lines 11-21).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method, disclosed in DeMello, to include:

- merging a place of the obtained page with a specialized tag,

for the purpose of providing additional information regarding the requested web page, as taught by Van Hoff.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 14 February 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Arguments for Claims 1 and 9:

Applicant argues that DeMello fails to disclose "appending desired comment information to any arbitrary place ***of graphical information***" (emphasis added) in a page of markup language displayed by a browser because DeMello is solely text-based. Applicant supports the argument by observing that, although it is well-known in the art and a "relatively simple operation" to associate text with ***other text*** (emphasis added), it is "more complex" to associate text with ***graphical*** information (emphasis added). See *Applicant's Response* – Page 10, fifth full paragraph through Page 11, first partial paragraph.

The examiner disagrees.

During patent examination, the pending claims must be "given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification." *In re Hyatt*, 211 F.3d 1367, 1372, 54 USPQ2d 1664, 1667 (Fed. Cir. 2000). The phrase "graphical information" in the context of the present application is very broad in that the phrase is mentioned only once throughout the Specification of the present invention (see Specification – Page 4, Line 25) and no particular definition of the phrase is recited in that portion of the Specification.

The term "*graphic*" means "of or relating to **written** representation" (emphasis added) and "of or relating to pictorial representation" (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company). Using this interpretation, DeMello clearly discloses "graphical information" in the **written** term "beginning" in Figure 3A.

Also, the term "graphics" means "[referring] to any computer device or program that makes a computer capable of displaying and manipulating pictures" (<http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/g/graphics.html>). Thus, the phrase "graphical information" would include web pages or other electronic documents (word processing documents, online manuals, online reference materials, online picture books, etc.) containing "pictures." Using this interpretation, DeMello discloses "appending desired comment information to any arbitrary place of graphical information" in that the document interface system allows the user to add annotations to any user-selected objects within documents and display the annotations in conjunction with the selected document objects. The user-selected document objects comprise "graphical information" located at "arbitrary places" in the documents in that: 1) the documents comprise "web pages," "manuals," "reference materials" and "picture books," all of which include graphics; and 2) the user may select any of the objects within the documents for the purpose of inserting annotations for the selected objects. See DeMello – Column 2, Line 53 through Column 3, Line 49.

Accordingly, DeMello discloses "graphical information."

Additionally, the examiner disagrees with Applicant's statement that it is "more complex" to associate text with **graphical** information than it is to associate text with **other text**. In the context of markup documents, textual elements and graphical elements are simply components, or "objects," of the web page. These web page objects may be manipulated by a user who is looking at the web page. That is, a user may select a textual element or a graphical element of a web page by simply highlighting the element. Subsequently, the user may manipulate the selected object using a web application, like the "annotation" application disclosed in DeMello.

Moreover, making annotations for both "textual" information and "graphical" information was well-known in the art at the time the invention was made (see Eintracht – Column 2, Lines 8-11 and Column 6, Lines 32-37). Thus, annotations may be easily associated with both textual elements and graphical elements.

Arguments for Claims 13, 16 and 19:

Applicant argues that Eintracht fails to disclose "storing comment information associated with a related page, said comment information including address information of the related page, specified place information in said page, and a comment text" because the operations performed by the Notes Server described in Eintracht does not meet this limitation. See *Applicant's Response* – Page 11, second full paragraph through Page 12, first partial paragraph.

The examiner disagrees.

As indicated in the above rejection for Claim 13, Eintracht discloses these limitations. Eintracht expressly discloses “annotations associated with a document” (see Column 2, Lines 9-10). The “annotations” are “comment information,” and this “document” is a “related page.” Also, Eintracht expressly discloses a collaborative work system that includes a Notes Database having records of the annotations. Each annotation record comprises: 1) a Note Document ID; 2) Note Anchor coordinates; and 3) Note Contents (see Column 10, Lines 40-63). Stated differently, each annotation record includes: 1) the identification of the document to which the annotation relates; 2) the coordinates of the location of the annotation on the related document; and 3) the contents of the annotation.

Accordingly, Eintracht discloses “storing comment information associated with a related page, said comment information including address information of the related page, specified place information in said page, and a comment text.”

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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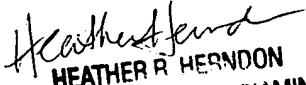
shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH
May 18, 2005


HEATHER R. HERNDON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100